

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

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Comal ISD names new SVHS principal

The Comal ISD Board of Trustees approved the hiring of John Montelongo III as the new principal at Smithson Valley High School at the board's May 6 board workshop.

Montelongo is replacing former SVHS principal Chris Trotter who accepted an assistant superintendent's position in Tomball ISD earlier in the year. SVHS assistant principal Chris Smith has served as interim principal at the school since Comal ISD returned from spring break.

Montelongo said he is looking forward to starting his journey at SVHS on Monday, May 10.

"I'm really excited about joining the Comal ISD and Smithson Valley families because of the traditions and excellence that the district and school have maintained over the years," said Montelongo. "I look forward to continuing that hard work and dedication."

Montelongo began his career in education in 1995 as a seventh grade reading teacher and coach in Pearland ISD. Within four years, he began his climb up the administrative ladder and accepted an assistant principal's job in neighboring Alvin ISD. He held two other assistant principal positions at Fort Bend ISD and Pearland ISD before taking on his first principal's position at Hitchcock High School in Hitchcock ISD in 2006.

After making significant gains in only a year's time at Hitchcock High School, including helping the school move from Academically Unacceptable to Academically Acceptable and ensuring a 100 percent student graduation rate, Montelongo accepted the principal's job at Fox Tech High School in San Antonio ISD in 2007.

Again, Montelongo guided the school from an Academically Unacceptable state rating to Academically Acceptable rating in his first year as principal and increased that rating to Recognized in his second year. He also helped to increase the number of students graduating from Fox Tech by 113 students before taking SAISD's Director of High School Initiative position in 2009.

Montelongo said he will continue to strive to increase the number of graduates and the number of students accepted into four-year universities as principal at SVHS.

"Ensuring every student graduates and proceeds on to post-secondary education is important to me and something I plan to work hard at as principal at Smithson Valley," Montelongo said. "My main goal is always to put students first, to help them in any way possible and to help them achieve their goals and dreams."

Montelongo earned his bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas in 1995, and he received his master's degree in education from Texas Southern University in Houston in 2000.

"We are extremely enthusiastic to have someone of Mr. Montelongo's caliber to be joining the Comal ISD team," said Comal ISD Assistant Superintendent for Academics and Student Services Dr. Jodi Duron. "I am confident that he has the passion, leadership ability, and skill set to move SVHS forward and recognized as one of the best high schools in the state of Texas."